

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SIG SANCHEZ

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Sig Sanchez.

Sig was born to Spanish immigrant parents, as the second of eleven children. His mother worked in a cigarette factory in San Francisco and his father was an agricultural laborer. In 1942, Sig moved to Gilroy because of his involvement in agriculture. For 20 years, Sig owned a melon-packing operation with two of his brothers and a 600-acre farm to the south of Los Banos.

Sig entered public service over 55 years ago when one of his tractors broke down. He went to repair his tractor and the owner of the shop was on the Gilroy City Council. The councilmember proceeded to encourage Sig to join him on the council. Sig served for five years as a councilman and another five years as the mayor. He then served 16 years on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. As a county supervisor, Sig advocated for the merger of the Santa Clara County Flood Control and Water District with the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District to better address floor management and water importation. In all his years of public service, he tried to never leave his office without returning every phone call.

In 1980, Sig was appointed as an at-large director to the water district board. He was a key player in the 1987 merger of the Gavilan Water District in South County with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which allowed for full integration of all the county's reservoirs and groundwater facilities. Sig was a charter board member in the 1992 development of the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, a joint organization of 32 water and irrigation agencies that contract with the US Bureau of Reclamation for water from the Central Valley Project. He was also instrumental in water importation into Santa Clara County with the county Board of Supervisors, South Bay Aqueduct, water district board, and the San Felipe project. As the longest serving member of the water district's board of directors, Sig guided the agency on pressing water quality problems, steered the valley through both floods in the 1980s, and helped it survive the 1987–1992 drought.

Sig has served as a board member of HOPE Rehabilitation, Wheeler Hospital Foundation, and the Gilroy Elks Club. As a passionate advocate for water and flood control issues, he has been an active member of national, state, and local water resource organizations, including the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Central valley Project Authority, Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority Board and Finance Committee,

Uvas/Llagas Flood Control and Watershed Advisory Committee, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Ad Hoc Audit Committee, and the South County Regional Wastewater Authority.

In recognition of his service and contributions, Sig was inducted into the Gilroy Hall of Fame in 1991. A building in San Martin is named after Sig. He also has a 10-mile portion of state Highway Route 101, the Sig Sanchez Freeway, named in honor of his 12-year effort to lobby various government agencies to build the highway.

Sig is being honored as the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Man of the Year on February 9. I join in honoring his decades of contribution and service to the betterment of our society. The community is very fortunate to have benefited from his dedication, commitment, and advocacy. He has left his mark in the community and I know he will continue to play a positive role in the years to come.

### GREAT LAKES EXPLORATION GROUP

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Great Lakes Exploration Group on the occasion of the work they do to discover and preserve the maritime history of the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes. The group has not only worked to identify and save historic artifacts, but do so in a way that preserves the cultural heritage of the Great Lakes.

In particular, I wish to commend the Great Lakes Exploration Group on discovering the possible location of *Le Griffon*, a ship that went missing in 1697. If *Le Griffon* is found, not only will a centuries-long mystery be solved, but, more importantly, the Great Lakes Group will add to the historical treasure trove of our Nation's earliest days of settlement.

Through community-based, non-invasive underwater archaeology and research that leaves the bottomlands intact, the Great Lakes Exploration Group was formed to be a worldwide leader in identifying, protecting, and preserving rare pieces of North American history found in Michigan's waters.

I wish the Great Lakes Exploration Group all the best in locating and preserving the wreck of *Le Griffon* and learning what secrets it may hold.

### IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAKER AND O'BRIEN, INC.

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Baker and O'Brien, Inc. as they celebrate twenty years of outstanding business.

Founded in 1993, Baker and O'Brien, Inc. started with merely six employees. With their commitment and vision, the company has since flourished to three offices and forty dedicated staffers that have served over 700 different clients. They uphold themselves to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity, which is reflected in the quality of their services and outstanding reputation. I commend Baker and O'Brien, Inc. for holding steadfast to their guiding principles of service, commitment, integrity, and confidentiality in their approach to business. Their success story exemplifies the American Dream; that in this land of great opportunity, hard work and dedication can turn a dream into reality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Baker and O'Brien, Inc. as they celebrate twenty years of success.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER MAYOR VICENTE IGNACIO AGUON

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Vicente Ignacio Aguon, the former Mayor of the village of Chalan Pago-Ordot, Guam. Vicente was born on July 6, 1939, to the late Jose Manglona Aguon and Emperatriz Cruz Ignacio Aguon. He married Pacita Baza Aguon and had seven children. Vicente passed away on January 21, 2013, at the age of 73.

Vicente attended Chalan Pago Elementary and graduated from George Washington Senior High School. He then went on to graduate from the National Technical School in Inglewood, California and the Harcourt Learning Direct in Hotel Management. Additionally Vicente studied Electrical Engineering at Guam Community College and he completed seminars from Chicago Technical College in Building Construction.

Vicente was a dedicated public servant. From 1965–1985 he worked for the Guam Department of Public Works as an Electrical and Refrigeration Technician, Construction Inspector, Construction Inspector supervisor, construction Project Manager, and Acting Engineer. In 1986, he moved to the Guam Legislature and was a Legislative Consultant for the

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